

ELMLEY CASTLE, BRICKLEHAMPTON & NETHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 2026

*From the meeting of Elmley Castle, Bricklehampton & Netherton Parish Council
on **Monday 7th September 2026** 19:00 hours at Elmley Castle Village Hall.
It was fully accessible to the Public and Press.*

PRESENT: Cllr A Morrison (Chairman), Cllr J Maude (Vice Chairman), Cllr J Stephens, Cllr C Jupp, Cllr K Lewis, Cllr N Gevers, Cllr V Lockhart, Cllr T Lea, Cllr S Bent, A Robinson (Clerk). 0 members of the public

39. WELCOME, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies received from District Cllr B Hardman, District Cllr A Crump.

40. OPEN FORUM & ANY UPDATES FROM THE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM:

No members of the public. Safer Neighbourhood Team not present.

41. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

The Chairman reminded all members of their responsibilities regarding declarations of interests.

42. DISPENSATIONS:

- (I) Cllr Bent, 1 year from 11/09/25, Land at Millend Racing Stables (discussion only, no voting rights).
- (II) Cllr Gevers, 1 year from 11/09/25, Land at Millend Racing Stables (discussion only, no voting rights).

43. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- (I) Cllr Stephens proposed to approve the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 20th July 2026, Cllr Jupp seconded the motion and all voted in favour.

44. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT:

- County Cllr A Hardman not present.

45. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR(S) REPORT(S)

- District Cllrs A Crump and B Hardman not present.

46. CLERK UPDATES:

- (I) All planning decisions listed below under 'Planning'.
- (II) Council noted the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has agreed the new pay scales for 2026-27 to be implemented from 1st April 2026. This amounts to a £0.65
- (III) p/h increase to the Clerks salary which is back dated.

47. PROGRESS REPORTS:

- (A) **Flood prevention** (Cllr Stephens) – reported he is obtaining quotes for work to be completed at Pendrils Pond, some contractors have declined the work due to workload but hopes to obtain further quotes to bring to a future Extra Ordinary Meeting to agree the contractor.
- (B) **Highways** (Cllr Burton) – Cllr Burton not present and nothing reported.
- (C) **Lengthsman** (Clerk) – nothing to report.
- (D) **Wildflowers** (Cllr Lea) – nothing to report.
- (E) **Planning** (Cllr Gevers) – **item 49 also.** Cllr Gevers reported no objections were submitted in relation to a planning application at 2 Oaklands Farm Cottage. This decision was made via the approved delegation scheme between meetings.
- (F) **Community Events** (Cllr Jupp) – **item 53 also.** Cllr Bent provided updates on the progression of this years Santa Parade. It was stated that a quote for providing Santas grotto had been obtained for £250.00. Cllr Morrison proposed that the committee (comprising of Cllr Bent / Cllr Gevers / Cllr Jupp and Cllr Lockhart) have spending authority up to the amount of £5,200.00 in conjunction with the Clerk. This amount was agreed during the July 2026 meeting. Cllr Lea seconded this motion and all voted in favour.
- (G) **Playground / ECCC** (Cllr Bent) – no reports.
- (H) **Defibs** (Cllr Gordon) – not present, no reports.

48. FINANCES TO 31st August 2026:

- (I) Cllr Morrison proposed to approve the receipts and payments listed below, Cllr Gevers seconded the motion and all voted in favour.
- (II) Council noted that there was another overspend within the 2026-2027 Budget to date. This is an overspend of £143.00 on Defib expenses for 2026-2027.
- (III) Council noted that Cllr Jupp has independently verified the Bank Reconciliations for July 26 and August 26.

Bank Balances as at 31st August 2026 - **£47,682.78**

Receipts, Jul / Aug 26:

28/7/26	WCC	Lengthsman Reclaim Jun 26	£280.00
18/8/26	WCC	Lengthsman Reclaim Jul 26	£265.00

Payments, Jul / Aug 26:

01/07/26	A Robinson	Clerk Salary Jun 26	£ 715.79
15/07/26	WCC Pension Fund	Pension Contributions Jul 26	£ 228.20
15/07/26	Smartcut Ltd	Grasscutting Jun 26	£ 312.00
15/07/26	HMRC	Employer Tax 6/4/26-5/7/26	£ 775.24
16/07/26	Lloyds Bank	Charge Card (Monthly Fee)	£ 3.00
16/07/26	Lloyds Bank	Defibstore Ltd	£ 171.60
28/07/26	A J Tree	Invoice 391 Removal of dead tree	£ 600.00
28/07/26	WDC	Dog Waste Bin Emptying x 1	£ 120.14
28/07/26	Steve Baker	Lengthsman Jun 26	£ 260.00
30/07/26	A Robinson	Clerk Home Office Jul 26	£ 17.25
31/07/26	Unity Bank	Service Charge	£ 7.00
03/08/26	A Robinson	Clerk Salary Jul 26	£ 715.79
06/08/26	Wayside Nurseries	Plants and Shrubs	£ 123.50
06/08/26	Village Hall	July Meeting	£ 13.00
13/08/26	Steve Baker	Lengthsman Jul 26	£ 245.00
13/08/26	Smartcut Ltd	Grasscutting Jul 26	£ 72.00
17/08/26	Lloyds Bank	Charge Card (Monthly Fee)	£ 3.00
31/08/26	Unity Bank	Service Charge	£ 7.00

49. PLANNING:

Item discussed during item 47(e).

50. CONCLUSION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT (2025-26):

Council noted the conclusion of Audit has been returned to the Clerk from PKF Littlejohn. The conclusion notice and AGAR will be published prior to 30th September as per the regulations.

- (I) Cllr Morrison proposed that 14 days was a suitable length of time for which the 'Notice' must be published, Cllr Stephens seconded the motion and all voted in favour.
- (II) Cllr Lea proposed that £10.00 was an appropriate fee to charge any persons that requested printed documents of the Annual Return, Cllr Bent seconded the motion and all voted in favour.

51. REPLACEMENT FOOTBALL GOALS AND NETS:

Council discussed the fact that a new football team had been set up and are now playing regularly at the Playing Fields in Elmley Castle. The team have approached the Parish Council and asked if they would consider replacing the tired goals and nets which they are currently using on the playing field. The Clerk explained three quotes had been obtained and the team were favouring the quote from MH Goals, which were quoting a discounted price of £2,049.60 plus VAT. Council felt this was a very positive initiative and supported the proposal. Cllr Lockhart formally proposed that the Council fund the purchase of the new goals and nets, Cllr Lewis seconded the motion and all voted in favour.

52. MAIN STREET TREES:

Cllr Bent explained that the trees on Main Street were far too large for the location and are now so big that they are restricting light into properties. Cllr Bent reported that she had been in touch with Barry Barnes from County Highways as the trees belong to the County Council but they were not prepared to take action at this time. Cllr Bent suggested that Council continue to push for a solution with County Highways.

53. CHRISTMAS EVENT INCLUDING SANTA PARADE & SANTAS GROTTTO:

Item discussed during item 47(F).

54. GRANT APPLICATION POLICY AND APPLICATION FORM:

Item postponed to future meeting.

55. ELMLEY CASTLE CRICKET CLUB LEASE:

Cllr Morrison, Cllr Bent and Cllr Maude provided updates on the progress of the Cricket Club lease renewal, which is due for renewal in September 2027. It was noted that ECCC had not been keeping up with the peppercorn rent and the Parish Council had not been provided with their relevant insurance policies. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to ECCC requesting these documents and to invoice them for the outstanding peppercorn rent.

56. AIRBAND POLES:

Cllr Bent explained to Council that there were a number of unused poles around the Parish that were installed by Airband. It was noted that Little Comberton Parish Council had had some recent progress to their similar complaints by involving MP Dame Harriet Baldwin and OFCOM. Cllr Bent proposed that the Clerk writes to MP Dame Harriet Baldwin and OFCOM. Cllr Maude seconded this proposal and all voted in favour.

57. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE:

Email sent to the Clerk from a resident at Bricklehampton requesting that the Lengthsman dedicates time towards flood prevention towards Lower End. Council discussed this request and it was agreed the Clerk would ask the Lengthsman to clear out the grip below Bricklehampton Village towards Lower End.

58. PROVISIONAL NEXT MEETING DATE (ALWAYS CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR CHANGES):

- Monday 16th November 2026.
- Please note, an Extra Ordinary meeting may be held prior to this meeting, a date TBC.

2020 hours, meeting concluded.